

Next Meeting: April 7, 2004

10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center – Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 3, 2004, Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Present: Brad Banasik (for Deb Russell), Greg Bodrie, Kathleen Clegg, Patt Clement, Pansy Coleman, Tina Densmore (for Collette Ward), Cheryl Ervin, Janice Fialka, Elaine High, Ric Hogerheide, Marge Joslin (for Don Trap), Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Peggy McNeilly, Pam Mish, Anne Richardson, Debs Roush, Jeff Siegel, Barbara Stork (for Jill Jacobs), Deb Todd, Randall VanGasse
Ex-Officio Members: Lee Martin, Rosanne Renauer, Michele Robinson, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Sheri Falvay, Patricia Keller, Shari Krishnan, Mark Larson, Lois Lofton Doniver, Sue Rabidoux, Steve Schwartz, Larry Simpson

OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich

Guests: Phyllis Rebori, Beth Kennedy, Sandi Laham, Jerry Oermann, Marina Spremo

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Debs Roush.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of March 3, 2004, meeting was considered. Fall Retreat dates will be set under Information Items. Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Patt Clement, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of February 4, 2004, meeting were considered. Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Pam Mish, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Parent Marina Spremo spoke regarding her concern for her nine-year-old daughter. Her daughter was moved from a regular classroom with an assistant to a self-contained classroom without an assistant. The mother reported that the school told her that if her child stayed in a regular classroom, she would fail; however, the girl had been doing well in her regular classroom with the assistant. Ms. Spremo and her husband are dissatisfied with the arrangement but are unaware of what they can do. Jacquelyn Thompson referred Ms. Spremo to David Brock for technical assistance later in the day. Ric Hogerheide suggested that the issue of effectively informing those in the field of available and/or required services be a future agenda item.

Pansy Coleman presented a situation she learned of while attending a student's IEP. She reported that the student had been bullied by another student, turned to the school for help, received none, and subsequently was involved in a fight. She had little or no recourse. The General Supervision subcommittee will discuss whether the SEAC can offer advice about how to address the gaps between statewide initiatives that guide appropriate actions in cases such as these and the experiences of children and families at the local level.

Chairperson's Report – Debs Roush

The issue of attending meetings from long distances was brought up at an earlier meeting. Debs Roush reported that the Executive Committee is discussing potential solutions while weighing cost and difficulties and will develop a survey for the general committee.

Debs reminded those attempting SB-CEU credits to complete and initial an evaluation form.

State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

A. Board of Education

David Brock reported that a position statement on IDEA reauthorization, developed by the Department of Education in conjunction with State Board of Education members, was approved at the February State Board meeting. The position statement was sent to the US House and Senate Education Committee. Information on a proposal to operate Camp T, a camp providing outdoor learning experiences for blind and visually impaired students, was presented. Jacquelyn Thompson clarified that the camp was not operated last summer due to a lack of resources. Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind and a few parent groups approached the Board in December requesting to run the camp. The Board instructed them to put together a proposal for running the camp.

At the March meeting, a few ISD plans are on the agenda. In April, an information item on nominations to the SEAC will be presented. A presentation on *EarlyOn* Michigan will be given in April to make the Board aware of what is done in the Part C area. Finally, the statewide autism initiative will be presented. The Department has a grant to

develop an online endorsement for special education and a certificate of professional competency in autism.

David gave an update on the policy documents that have been of concern to the SEAC this year. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction approved the Operational Procedures for Michigan School for the Deaf in January 2004. The Technical Assistance for Frequently Asked Questions document is finished and ready for posting. The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) met February 20 and received a summary of the public comment on the monitoring standards for Part C from the committee responsible for a rewrite of the standards. They have drafted a new document based on the comment that is being reviewed in the Department of Education and will be ready for approval by the executive committee of the SICC in a matter of weeks. The definition of autism referent group was reconvened and made recommendations to the Department on February 5. The definition for deaf-blindness completed all necessary reviews and is being moved on to final promulgation. A legal group challenged the Department's authority to create the proposed mediation stay-put procedure rule. The Department received advice from the Attorney General's office last week and will discuss the advice before making a decision. The Transition Coordinator Qualifications Referent Group met and recommended approval of people according to procedures yet to be developed by the Board. The rule removing the superintendent's appeal based on a request from the federal government is moving on to final promulgation.

B. Department of Education

Cheryl Ervin asked if work is being done on an assistance packet for teachers who are not highly qualified. Fran Loose explained that the Department of Education is looking at an array of strategies to assist secondary special education teachers in being highly qualified. The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services is working closely with the Office of Professional Preparation Services. A Q&A table is in its draft stages. Teachers who are elementary certified and teach at the elementary level meet the highly qualified requirement. For secondary teachers, passing the Michigan elementary teacher test may meet the highly qualified requirement for special education teachers since students needing special education at the secondary level often function at an elementary level. Discussion followed. Jacquelyn Thompson summarized that the Department is still waiting for definitive answers from the US Department of Education on Michigan's state standards for what will be acceptable as documenting a highly qualified special education secondary teacher.

Jacquelyn Thompson reported that the US Department of Education sent a Teacher Assistance Team to every state. Representatives from the Michigan Department of Education met with this team reviewing some issues related to highly qualified. The team was sent to provide technical assistance and did not have the authority to approve the State's plan. Jacquelyn is serving on a special education task force, convened by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), looking specifically at IDEA reauthorization and maintaining momentum to have some influence on the regulations once IDEA is re-authorized.

This week the Universal Education Referent Group will meet for the second time. The issue of bullying and harassment that was brought up earlier in today's meeting is part of the focus of this group.

There are six federal deadlines that the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services have been working to meet. The first was met last week with the submission of the application for a new State Improvement Grant (SIG). The application focused on working with middle schools that didn't make AYP based on the performances of students with disabilities. Additionally, two annual performance reports, one for Part B and one for Part C, are due at the end of this month. Eligibility documents for Part B and C are also due at the end of March. Finally, the Continuous Improvement Focused Monitoring model is also due soon. A group has been meeting for a day and a half each week since December working on it.

Information Items

- A. Transition Coordinator Update – Fran Loose and Jacquelyn Thompson for Beth Steenwyk

A core planning team that Beth Steenwyk leads has been collecting IEP data from ISDs with a survey following the Transition Outcomes Project model. Data profiles are expected in a week. In addition, a parent survey will go out to the same families who had an IEP review completed. As part of the continuous improvement model, the Department of Education is examining what the IEPs show is happening with regard to transition. The parent survey will show what parents perceive is happening with regard to transition. The data will be used as an indicator at the state, regional, and ISD levels to judge what should be focused on for personnel development and improvement as a next step.

- B. SEAC 2004-05 Executive Committee Nominations

Debs Roush instructed the committee to submit their nominations for the executive committee by writing them on the board. Fran Loose will put the list of nominees on the listserv.

- C. Fall Retreat

The Executive Committee set the dates for the fall retreat for September 19 and 20. The location will be announced once it is determined.

Action Items

- A. Eligible Students with Disabilities in the Correctional System

Randall VanGasse presented the final document summarizing the work of the Secondary Transition subcommittee for this year. The subcommittee would like to forward the

document to the State Board of Education as an information item and is requesting the SEAC's approval to do so. Ric Hogerheide suggested a friendly amendment to change the wording to "year end annual review". Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Peggy McNeilly, to accept the report and forward the document as amended to the State Board of Education. The motion carried.

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education – Mark Larson – None

Michigan Department of Community Health – Sheri Falvay – None

Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services – Rosanne Renauer – The Agency has engaged in a strategic planning process in collaboration with their new department. For the past five years, two agency strategic priorities (transition and business services) have been the focus. New priorities are being set for the organization, focusing more on collaboration and partnerships, providing services to population groups that have not been served equitably in the past, and defining and providing quality rehabilitation outcomes. Approval to fill Agency Deputy Director position was received and a national search is being conducted. The Michigan Commission for the Blind and the Michigan Commission of Disabilities Services moved from Family Independence Agency to the same department as Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Under their new department and over the next three years, the percentage of federal rehabilitation dollars going to the Michigan Commission for the Blind will be increased. Discussion followed. As reported in an earlier meeting, Michigan's High School High Tech Initiative is an attempt to promote high quality careers for students with disabilities in the state. Marcy Allen will begin March 15 as the project manager. Rosanne announced the next transition network team meeting is May 6. Finally, she offered thanks to Elaine High and Paul Kubicek for participating as presenters on transition teleconference March 2.

Family Independence Agency – Lee Martin – None

Committee Reports

A. General Supervision – Ric Hogerheide

Last month, the statement on Technical Assistance for Frequently Asked Questions was approved. The subcommittee will meet to address the issues assigned to them at today's meeting.

B. School Age – Debs Roush

The position paper on NCLB is nearly complete. The subcommittee will re-examine the paper today and hope to bring a final version to the committee of the whole at the SEAC's April meeting.

C. Secondary Transition – Randall VanGasse

The subcommittee's action item was approved by the committee of the whole earlier today. Jane Reagan will discuss Medicaid and adjudicated youth at today's subcommittee meeting.

Member Issues

None

Future Agenda Items

None

Peggy McNeilly moved, seconded by Ric Hogerheide, to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of March 3, 2004, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Ric Hogerheide, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Debs Roush, Jacquelyn Thompson, Randall VanGasse

Absent: Shari Krishnan, Larry Simpson

Review of Today's Agenda

Larry Simpson is in Flint today. In his absence, Debs Roush will perform the duties of Chairperson.

Beth Steenwyk will arrive later today than originally expected. She will present later in the meeting, possibly over lunch, instead of during the information items.

Randy VanGasse will present the Eligible Students with Disabilities in the Correctional System action item developed by the Secondary Transition subcommittee.

State Department Report

David Brock will cover upcoming State Board of Education items and provide an update on the status of various policy items of interest to the SEAC.

SEAC new member nominations is on April's State Board agenda as an information item. The Board will take action in May. Jacquelyn Thompson reported that letters to the organizations needing to nominate a new delegate or re-appoint their current delegate were mailed on March 2. Debs Roush suggested that the new general membership for the SEAC be completed and finalized earlier next year so that executive committee nominations could be done with full knowledge of the general membership. Jacquelyn agreed. For this year, nominations will be made based on those who expect to return and a ranking will be kept in the event that someone expecting to return does not get re-appointed.

Jacquelyn Thompson received a phone call on March 2 from Lois Lofton Doniver. Michigan Federation of Teachers (MFT) has identified a new alternate who will likely be appointed as the delegate next year. Her name is Dara Keen and she may attend today's meeting.

Chairperson's Report

Debs Roush will remind the entire group that those working toward SB-CEU credit must complete and initial an evaluation.

Subcommittee Reports

- A. General Supervision – Ric Hogerheide reported that the committee met very briefly last month and does not have any further business to conduct this month. The subcommittee will not meet today unless new business is presented in today's committee of the whole meeting.
- B. Secondary Transition – Fran Loose reported that a guest presenter would attend the Secondary Transition subcommittee meeting.
- C. School Age – Debs Roush reported that a final draft on the NCLB paper is near completion. The subcommittee will give final comments at the meeting today. Debs estimated that the document could be ready and approved by the SEAC in time for presentation at the May State Board of Education meeting. Jacquelyn Thompson suggested that this and the Secondary Transition item on adjudicated youth be presented together at the same Board in consideration of the very full Board agendas of recent months.

Future Agenda Development

Videoconferencing the SEAC meetings was mentioned at the January meeting. Sandi Laham suggested investigating the problem behind the request for videoconferencing first. The executive committee decided to develop a survey to gather ideas on how to make the SEAC meetings more effective and easier to participate in. Following the results of the survey being summarized, the executive committee will look into potential solutions, including videoconferencing, to find one most viable.

The executive committee set the dates for the 2004-05 SEAC Fall Retreat for September 19 and 20. Amanda Whitehead will explore St. Frances Retreat Center in Dewitt and Winding Brook Conference Center in Shepherd as possible locations.